

EAST GREENWICH SCHOOL COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 18, 2005 SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

1. Call to Order

The second School Committee meeting for October was held on Tuesday, October 18, 2005 at the Hanaford School. The meeting was called to order by Chair Vincent Bradley at 7:05 p.m. Other members present were: Merrill Friedemann, Paul Martin, Steve Gregson, Dr. Al Ross, William Day, and Sue Cienki, as well as Superintendent Charles Meyers, and Director of Administration Maryanne Crawford, and Assistant Superintendent Helen O'Hara, and Director of Administration, Robert Wilmarth.

2. The meeting commended with the PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE to the flag by Boy Scout Troop I who were present to fulfill their citizenship medal.

3. Reports to the School Committee-There were no reports.

4. Public Comments for Items not on the Agenda

Megan Nugent and Eliza Stopa, Student Council Representatives, stated that the Hurricane Katrina Fundraiser raised \$1500. They stated that the Student Council is sponsoring Homecoming, Spirit Week, a semi-formal dance, and a student parade next week.

5. Recognitions

5.1 The following high school students were recognized for being selected as semi-

finalists in the 2006 merit scholarship competition: Amanda Eller, Monica Rosenberg, and William Wray.

5.2 The following high school students were recognized for being named

as commended students in the 2006 merit scholarship competition: Caroline Lamb, Jill Lambiase, Kristin Pallister and Zachary Schwager.

6. Approval of Minutes

a. June 21, 2005 Executive Session

Dr. Ross made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Gregson to approve the Executive Session minutes of June 21, 2005.

b. August 16, 2005 School Committee Meeting. These minutes were tabled.

c. September 20, 2005 School Committee Meeting

Mr. Martin made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Gregson, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the September 20, 2005 School Committee meeting.

7. New Business

7.1 a. Appointments

Dr. Ross made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Day to approve the

following appointment:

7.1.1 Tim Corrigan, Intramural Football coach for grades 7 & 8 at Cole Middle School. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Day made a motion which was seconded by Dr. Ross to approve

the following appointment:

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7.1.2 Peter Dion, Girls Basketball Coach at East Greenwich High School. The motion passed unanimously.

7.1b Out-of-State Field Trips

Mr. Martin made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Day to approve

the following field trips:

a. London, for High School Drama Club

b. Ocean Park, Maine, for Nature's Classroom for Hanaford School

Mr. Gregson asked about the attorney's response as to whether the School Committee should be endorsing school trips. Mrs. Friedemann stated that if the School Committee is sponsoring school trips, they are covered and also liable. Mr. Gregson stated that he is concerned with exposure to the town, not against the trip. Mrs. Friedemann stated that the School Committee needs to find out the types of events for the insurance company. Mrs. Crawford stated that she needs to ask the insurance company for guidelines for out of country trips. Dr. Ross made a motion to table the approval of the London trip until the November 1 meeting contingent upon approval by the insurance company. Mr. Martin seconded the motion. On the motion to table, Mr. Bradley, Mr. Martin, Mrs. Friedemann, Dr. Ross, and Mr. Day voted yes. Mrs. Cienki voted no, and Mr. Gregson abstained. The amended motion passed.

Dr. Ross made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Martin to

approve the Nature's Classroom trip to Maine contingent upon outlines required by Feitelberg Insurance. The motion passed with Mr. Gregson abstaining.

7.1c Home School Plans

Mr. Gregson made a motion which was seconded by Mr. Day to approve the following home school plans: The motion passed unanimously.

a. Isaac Pontarelli, grade 2

b. Breton Leshin, grade 11

8. School Committee Concerns

8.1 Storage Units

Mr. Meyers stated that this came about because of the search for records

needed by one of our law firms. He feels this can be reduced to one unit.

Mr. Gregson stated that the floor of the new gym needs to be adequately protected for the homecoming dance. He feels that a protective covering is needed since issues with the new gym floor are in litigation. The superintendent will address this with the facilities director.

9. Audio Upgrade at East Greenwich High School Auditorium

Mr. Wilmarth stated that the equipment will cost approximately \$4000 and installation \$1000, and it will be done in two weeks. Mr. Michael Hyde, who is very well known to the school department, will be installing the equipment. Mr. Bradley stated that this is a key element to having better meetings, and is a good investment. Dr. Ross made

a motion to strike \$723.03 for the cassette recorder since he feels he has given good reasons why the meetings do not have to be recorded. Mr. Day seconded this motion. Mr. Bradley feels that recording meetings gives discipline to discussions. He also feels that the new high school set-up gives the perception that the School Committee is on the road to success. Mrs. Cienki feels that the PTG's and Recreation Department can use this equipment since it is somewhat portable. Mr. Robert Vespia stated that East Greenwich is the only School Committee that does not have some type of recording system, and he feels they open themselves up for litigation.

He added that public officials should not object to being recorded. Judi Cavanaugh stated that Cox Cable will come in and video our

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meetings. On the motion to amend the original motion to cut \$723.03 from the audio equipment, Dr. Ross and Mr. Day voted yes, and Mr. Bradley, Mrs. Friedemann, Mr. Martin, Mrs. Cienki, and Mr. Gregson voted no. The motion to amend did not pass. On the motion to approve the equipment and installation of the new audio equipment, Mr. Bradley, Mr. Martin Mrs. Cienki, and Mrs. Friedemann voted yes, and Dr. Ross, Mr. Gregson and Mr. Day voted no. The motion passed.

10. Finance Consolidation Aftermath-Need for Clerical Manning

Mr. Meyers noted that he met with Mrs. Crawford and Mrs. O'Hara to make a tentative plan to staff the finance office with no additional staff.

Mr. Gregson asked about payroll. Mr. Meyers responded that all the compensations had to be worked out, and he expects that the town

will do presentations as to why they had the problems with the payroll.

11. Public Comments for Items on the Agenda-There were no public comments.

12. Executive Session, R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a) (1) (2) Personnel Issues, Special Education Services, Custodian Negotiations – NEARI Proposal. On a motion made by Mrs. Cienki and seconded by Mr. Day, the Committee, being polled individually, voted unanimously to go into Executive session at 8:10 p.m. for reasons cited above.

Virginia Giuliani

Secretary